

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A mission collaboration system for executing missions comprising:

- (a) at least one mission coordinator;
- (b) at least one service node in communication with said at least one mission coordinator; and
- (c) wherein said at least one mission coordinator executes missions by creating a mission instance, said mission instance comprising at least one task instance and wherein said at least one task instance comprises at least one task step which is executed through the use of executable software code by said at least one service node.

Claim 2 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 1 wherein said at least one mission comprises at least one causal task, at least one trigger rule and at least one resultant task, and wherein said at least one causal task generates results which are treated as inputs to a said trigger rule to generate a resultant task represented by a new task instance.

Claim 3 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 2 wherein multiple causal tasks are executed simultaneously and wherein said mission collaboration system waits until the trigger rule conditions are satisfied prior to triggering a resultant task instance.

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Claim 4 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 2 wherein at least one of said causal tasks is a root task for initiating execution of said mission.

Claim 5 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 3 wherein at least one causal task is executed at a remote service node.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A mission collaboration system for executing missions comprising:

- (a) at least one mission coordinator;
- (b) at least one service node in communication with said at least one mission coordinator; and
- (c) wherein said missions comprise a plurality of tasks each generated by said at least one mission coordinator and wherein each task is defined by a task instance structure which is communicated to said at least one service node for execution;
- (d) wherein said task instance structure includes a processing engine comprising executable software code which permits said tasks to be executed by said at least one service node.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The mission collaboration system of claim 6 wherein said task instance structure comprises input information storage designating the location of input data which is necessary for the execution of the task instance.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 6 wherein at least one said service node is a remote service node.

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Claim 11 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 6 wherein said task instance structure comprises a resultant container for storing results associated with the execution of the task instance.

Claim 12 (Original): The mission collaboration system of claim 11 wherein at least one of said service nodes is a remote service node and wherein said results are communicated back to said mission coordinator.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A methodology for completing missions in a networked computing environment comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a mission;
- (b) creating a mission instance, said mission instance comprising at least one task;
- (c) generating at least one task instance associated with one of said at least one tasks;
- (d) transmitting said at least one task instance to at least one service node;
- (e) executing said at least one task instance on said at least one service node;
- (f) receiving the results of said execution of said at least one task instance; and
- (g) applying a rules-based analysis to determine whether and when additional task instances should be created based upon said results;

wherein each of said task instances is represented by a task instance structure and each of said task instances is executed on either a local or a remote service node, said task instance structures comprising executable code.

Claim 14 (Original): The methodology of claim 13 wherein the tasks associated with said mission are predefined.

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Claim 15 (Original): The methodology of claim 13 wherein the tasks associated with said mission are determined based upon input obtained in connection with the selection of said mission.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Original): The methodology of claim 13 wherein multiple task instances are generated in connection with a single task and wherein said multiple task instances are broadcasted to a plurality of service nodes.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Original): The methodology of claim 16 wherein said task instance structures comprise input storage indicative of the location of input data necessary for completion of the task associated with said task instance.

Claim 20 (New): The mission collaboration system of claim 6 wherein multiple tasks are executed simultaneously.

Claim 21 (New): The methodology of claim 13 wherein multiple task instances are executed simultaneously.